

**ABSTRACT**

Methods, apparatuses, media and signals for providing clear channel access on a network are disclosed. A first method involves receiving a communication signal from a remote network element. The communication signal includes a previous transport overhead (PTOH) portion indicative of transport overhead contents of the communication signal prior to arrival at the remote network element, and a previous path error (PPE) portion indicative of path errors present in the communication signal at the remote network element. The method then involves modifying a transport overhead portion of the communication signal in response to the PTOH and PPE portions. A second method involves inserting into a communication signal received at a network element, a previous transport overhead (PTOH) portion indicative of transport overhead contents of the communication signal prior to arrival at the network element, and a previous path error (PPE) portion indicative of path errors present in the communication signal at the network element. The second method then involves transmitting the communication signal to a remote device.